

TERROR OF CONTROVERSY

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The following is from The Gospel Standard, June 1984 --

I would fain add here a word of warning against one of the saddest delusions of our time, for a multitude of souls are being led away by it, and in some cases it is deceiving the very elect. I mean THE POPULAR BLIND TERROR OF CONTROVERSY SO RIFE IN THE PRESENT DAY. Let us beware that we suffer not indolence and cowardice to shelter themselves under the insulted name of charity. We are bidden to strive together for the truth of the Gospel and earnestly to contend for the faith (in both places the Greek word means to wrestle); words which presuppose an antagonist and a controversy. Satan hates controversy. We are often told that controversy is contrary to the Gospel precepts of love to our enemies. What says the Apostle to whom to live was Christ--on whom came daily the care of all the churches--who tells us concerning faith, hope and charity that "the greatest of these is charity"? He says, "Though we, or an angel from Heaven, preach any other Gospel...let him be accursed!" Of false brethren he said, "To whom we gave place by subjection; no, not for an hour; that the truth of the Gospel might continue with you." Ten minutes of friendly contact with the world will do more to injure spirituality than ten years of controversy conducted in a Christian spirit--not fighting for victory but for truth, not for ourselves but for Christ. We believe controversy may take the place of spirituality in some men, but it never can injure it; and, further, in the present conditions, everyone should "contend earnestly for the faith."